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**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
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**REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE L. JANOWSKI**  
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COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYEE ADVANCEMENT  
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE ON AGING TESTIMONY 1/27/09**  
**HB 5045: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELDERLY TAX FREEZE PROGRAM**

GOOD MORNING SENATOR PRAGUE, REPRESENTATIVE SERRA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGING. I AM REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.

I AM PLEASED TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF BILL HB 5045, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELDERLY TAX FREEZE PROGRAM WHICH I HAVE INTRODUCED ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR TO OFFER SOME MUCH NEEDED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO SENIORS ON FIXED INCOME. IT'S PURPOSE IS TO OPEN THE ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX FREEZE PROGRAM TO NEW APPLICANTS THUS ALLOWING SENIORS TO HAVE THEIR LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES FROZEN AT THE TIME OF QUALIFICATION. ITS AIM IS TO GIVE SENIORS SOME STABILITY IN PLANNING & PAYING FOR THEIR LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES WHILE ON A FIXED INCOME.

THE SPECIFICS OF THE LEGISLATION ARE IN THE BILL AND INCLUDE AN INCREASE IN THE QUALIFYING INCOME LIMITS TO \$30,000 FOR A SINGLE PERSON AND \$50,000 FOR A COUPLE; A DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING INCOME AS IT IS DEFINED FOR THE CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM; SPECIFIES THAT A TAXPAYER MAY RECEIVE BENEFITS UNDER EITHER THE FREEZE PROGRAM OR THE CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM, BUT NOT BOTH, IN ANY PARTICULAR YEAR; GRANDFATHERS ANY PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXISTING FREEZE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDE DUE COMPENSATION TO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES FOR ANY LOSS IN LOCAL TAX REVENUE – WHICH IS PART OF THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM BEFORE IT WAS CLOSED.

ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO LESSEN THE TAX BURDEN ON OUR SENIORS IS A PLUS AND I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF THIS COMMITTEE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A VARIETY OF PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, THE FREEZE PROGRAM HAS PROVEN TO PROVIDE THAT BREAK FOR SENIORS IN THE PAST AND IT IS THE PROGRAM THAT MOST OF MY SENIORS CONSISTENTLY BRING TO MY ATTENTION AS NEEDING TO BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE AND REOPENED. SENIORS WANT TO PAY THEIR TAXES. THEY SIMPLY CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE YEARLY MILL RATE INCREASES ONCE THEY RETIRE AND ARE ON A FIXED INCOME. YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.